

NOTES FROM THE

Chief for Enlisted Matters

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After reading an Air Force News Service release about an enlisted financial manager convicted of attempted larceny, conspiracy, violation of a lawful general regulation, and violation of Article 134 of the UCMJ, I felt a need to write about integrity, internal control, and teamwork. As you know integrity first is one of our core values. Core values are the minimum standards an enlisted Air Force member must live by. Integrity first means finding the right way, not the easy way. According to CMSAF Eric Benken, integrity is: Being honest with others as well as with yourself, and doing what's right at all times. Service members possessing integrity will always do what's right, regardless of the circumstances, even when no one is looking. They will make no compromise in being honest in small things as well as great ones. But as with the convicted larcenist, we know at least one of us did not possess such integrity.

One way to help us find these traitors in our midst is through internal controls. Internal controls help ensure everyone complies with financial rules and regulations. Most commands have established internal control checklists. I ask each of you to find yours and understand the contents and practices of the established internal controls for financial management. Be the one who does the right thing for yourself and the United States Financial Management Team.

And we are a team. A good, strong team. There is no job in financial management that is totally automatic. I count on every person in this community to help me do my job. Without you, I cannot successfully make decisions and changes for the enlisted financial management career field. Just as important, it takes more than one person to make a payment or oversee a program. We need to ensure every task or step is taken seriously and meets the "common sense" rule of right and wrong. If we suspect foul play, we must stop it immediately. We can do this through effective oversight, supervision, and teamwork.

Yes, I am mad that one person could hurt the reputation of so many great financial managers. We can't allow this to happen in our Air Force. We should all take this personally and strive to ensure that the integrity of our career field stays in tact and our people proudly service this fine country and the freedoms that it offers our families, our friends, and ourselves. Get a hold of those checklists, teach everyone around

you about internal controls, financial laws, and regulations. If one person can make a difference in a negative way, imagine what a team of thousands of financial managers can do in a good way through integrity, internal controls, and teamwork!

FY 98 Financial Management Senior NCO Focal Points

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACC | CMS Edward Lawson | 574-4848 |
| AETC | CMS Nick Stradley | 487-4882 |
| AFMC | CMS David Babcock | 787-6783 |
| AFRC | Ms Patricia Tomlin | 497-1468 |
| AFSOC | SMS Wayne Balthazrr | 579-2812 |
| AFSPC | CMS Dan Walsh | 692-3676 |
| AMC | CMS Larry Gonzales | 576-8479 |
| PACAF | CMS Diane Stewart CMS Ricky Altman | 315-449-1603 315-449-5243 |
| USAFE | CMS Shauna Lach | 314-480-6291 |
| AFPC | MSgt John Gauld | 487-4115 |
| AIA | CMS Rick Fitzgibbon | 969-2866 |
| Chief's Group | MSgt Rob White | 487-6611 |
| NGB | SMS Joan Willcocks | 278-8861 |
| Enlisted Trng | SMS Mike Sizemore | 224-5399 |
| USAFA | MSgt Rich St Pierre | 333-3160 |
| 11WG | CMS Claire Godbout | 295-6624 |
| DFAS-DE | CMS Deb Mallion | 926-7487 |